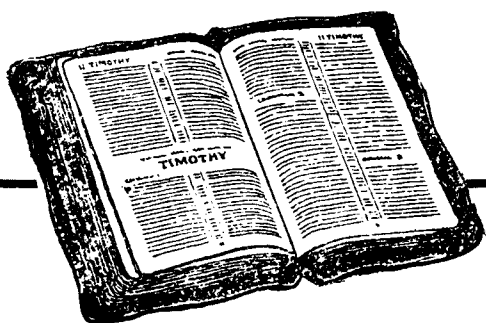


Christmas?



Its Strange Origin

AND THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE
OF CHRIST'S BIRTH



*Open Wide its Pages
More than ever
today!*

Christmas?

— Its Strange Origin and the True Significance of Christ's Birth

Christmas is celebrated throughout the western world by both professing Christians and non Christians. This is strange. It is unusual for people who are not particularly religious most of the year, to suddenly be involved in a supposed Christian observance. On the other hand, it seems odd that many who claim to be Christian, should lay so much emphasis upon a celebration which:

(a) Neither Christ nor his Apostles kept, or commanded others to keep.

(b) Is so steeped in paganism.

Yet in spite of these well known facts vast numbers throughout the world join together on December 25th to celebrate a most unusual birthday!

An Unusual Birthday

The birth of Christ is certainly a strange basis upon which many, who openly admit to being non-Christian, use as a reason for great festivity. Surely such celebration implies that they recognise the historical reality of the one to whom this holiday is dedicated. It also seems reasonable that such a recognition should bring with it a ready disposition to know and obey the teachings of Christ.

While all of this is logical, it is obvious that no such recognition, or sense of responsibility, exists with the majority of people.

The reason for this anomaly is clearly seen when one considers some of the aspects of the birthday in question.

It is usual for one to increase in age every time a birthday comes around. This is common sense. Yet this reasonable assumption is lost in the celebration of Christ's birthday. Almost 2000 years have elapsed since his birth; yet he is demoted back to the manger every year. This is convenient. For who can be responsible to a baby who never grew up, and who every year is tucked into his lowly stable bed in faraway Bethlehem!

Already the reason for the popularity of Christmas is becoming apparent. Not only so, but it will become clear that a divided and discordant "Christianity" has been, and still is, party to making what it claims to be a major Christian observance, into one which has such great appeal to secular society.

Was Christ Born on December 25th?

Was Jesus born on Dec. 25th? Many feel that this is an established fact but, in fact, there is no historical or Biblical evidence which confirms December 25th as his birthdate!

Colliers Encyclopedia (1972. pg. 403) states:

"It is impossible to determine the exact date of the birth of Christ, either from the evidence of the Gospels, or from any sound tradition".

The evidence of the Bible suggests that Christ was born in the milder weather of summer (the northern summer) and not in the extremities of winter. It declares that there were shepherds "abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This was not done in the open field in the middle of winter, because the weather can be extremely cold, even to the point of snow. The Lord was born in Bethlehem because his mother was of that city, and Caesar Augustus of Rome had decreed that all should return to their hometown to be registered and taxed. It would be most unlikely that he would compel the various populations of the Roman Empire to travel every one to his place of birth, during the rigours of winter (Luke 2:1-3).

When Was December 25th Chosen?

Actually it was not until nearly four hundred years after the birth of Christ that this date was officially designated as the birthdate of Christ.

Colliers Encyclopedia p. 403 states:

"After the triumph of Constantine, the Church of Rome assigned December 25th as the date for the celebration of the feast, possibly about A.D. 320 or 353".

Why Was December 25th Chosen?

Everymans Encyclopedia (p. 406) states:

"The Roman Festival of the Winter Solstice was celebrated on Dec. 25th (dies natalis solis invicti). The Celtic and Germanic tribes held this season in veneration from the earliest times and the Norsemen believed that their deities were present and active on earth from 25th Dec. to 6th Jan.

Colliers Encyclopedia (p. 403) states:

"The choice of December 25th was probably influenced by the fact that on this day the Romans celebrated the Mithraic feast of the sun God (natalis solis invicti) and that the Saturnalia also came at this time".

In the *New International Dictionary of the Church* (1978) p. 223, the statement is made:

"Sometime before 336 the Church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan feast, spiritualised it as the feast of the nativity of the sun of righteousness".

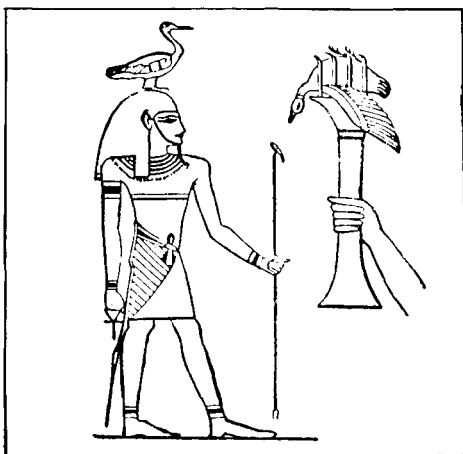
Clearly the celebration of Christmas on December 25 was a compromise. Instead of cancelling out the pagan festivals and customs previously celebrated they were merely transferred. As a result, what we have today are pagan celebrations in shallow disguise as Christian observances.

Pagan Customs

Perhaps you are not altogether convinced of the pagan origin of Christmas. Then consider those old Christmas traditions. Where did they come from?

Everymans' Encyclopedia notes:

"Many other ancient beliefs and customs about this period have been handed down to our times, and have crept into Christian usage. The lighting of the yule log, a custom once widely prevalent, was derived from Lithuanic folklore. The practice of decorating houses and churches is pagan in its origin, and the mistletoe, so widely used for that purpose, was the sacred plant of the Druids. The custom of presenting friends with gifts at Christmas dates back to the time of the ancient Romans".



The Christmas Goose

The goose was offered as a sacrifice in the pagan worship of a false Messiah in both Egypt and Babylon. The illustration shows the Egyptian god Seb, with his symbol the goose, and the sacred goose on a stand, as offered in sacrifice. The use of a goose in Christmas celebrations is a carryover from paganism.

The Christmas Tree Mentioned in the Bible

No doubt the buying and decorating of the Christmas tree is one of the most popular of the Christmas customs we know today. Did you know that this practice is directly condemned in the Bible? Not only is it condemned but this custom actually pre-dates the time of Christ by hundreds of years! Consider the words of Jeremiah the prophet who wrote about 500 years B.C.

JEREMIAH 10:2-4

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

The resemblance is striking is it not? This practice was condemned because true worship of that time, was being corrupted by the introduction of "the customs of the people", which are described as "vain". Today similar corruptions have permeated Christian belief. Christmas celebrations are only the tip of the ice-berg as far as the departure from 1st century Christianity is concerned.

It is very evident that the Christian customs we know today are little more than hand-me-downs from ancient paganism. All of this may be regarded as harmless by some, but let us remember that such paganism is being equated with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostles of the first century went to great lengths to turn men and women away from paganism to Christ. Today the tables are turned, as the religious leaders of our day are turning people away from the purity of first century Christianity to the traditions and customs of ancient pagan worship.

The Significance of Christ's Birth Lost

We have no doubt that the nativity plays witnessed every year in schools and churches are conducted in all sincerity, and yet it becomes quite obvious that the true significance of the birth of Christ is lost. Truly the birth of Christ was a wonderful and an exciting occasion, but why leave him in the manger till the following year?

Born To Be King

Christ was born to be King. This fact is hardly disputed. Most will be aware that the wise men that came from the east enquired: "*Where is he that is born King of the Jews*"? (Matt. 2:2). Even in his death the superscription was placed over his cross: "*Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews*" (John 19:19). Notice

from these two citations of Scripture that Christ was not only to be King, but *King of the Jews*! The Jews nationally have never recognised Christ as their King. Has the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ failed? By no means! Consider the following point.

LUKE 1:30-33

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast ^afound favour with God.

31 And, behold, ^rthou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and ^sthalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of ^tthe Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him ^tthe throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob ^afor ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

**The Angels' Message To Mary
— A Prophecy Yet To Be Fulfilled**

These words are repeated every year in the well known nativity plays. Yet how many people really stop to consider the meaning of the prophecy? Half the words of the prophecy have already had their fulfilment. For example, Mary did conceive and bring forth a son. His name *was called* Jesus; he *is* the Son of the Highest; he *is* great. But

what about the rest of the prophecy? In particular it was promised that "the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (v. 32) and "that he would reign over the house of Jacob forever" (v. 33). Both aspects of this prophecy are Jewish in concept. The David referred to was the beloved king of Israel, who had then been dead for hundreds of years, but who was promised a resurrection to life eternal and to regal glory. The house of Jacob is a term which is synonymous with the descendants of Jacob, who are known today as the Jews. (Jacob's name was later changed to *Israel*).

The Kingdom of God Existed Before

The ancient Kingdom of Israel was in fact the Kingdom of God. Although only so in a limited sense, the facts nevertheless remain.

- * The Jews were God's chosen people (Isa. 44:1).
- * They lived in God's land (Ezek. 36:4-5).
- * They were governed by God's law (2 Chron. 6:16).
- * Their King was God appointed (2 Sam. 6:21).
- * Their King sat upon God's throne (1 Chron. 29:23).

Altogether this constituted God's Kingdom (1 Chron. 28:5).

These facts serve as a key which will unlock major portions of the New Testament; but without this key the Bible will remain a misunderstood book.

The Kingdom of God Temporarily Overturned

Before reverting to the New Testament it should be noted that the Kingdom as it existed above was overturned and removed be-

cause of the wickedness of the people and their successive kings. We read of this in Ezekiel 21:25-27.

EZEKIEL 21:25-27

25 ¶ And thou, 'profane / wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end,

26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove ' the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: 'exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.

27 'I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, 'until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

And so, as was predicted, the throne of David and the Kingdom of Judah were overthrown by the Babylonians. But this portion of scripture, if read carefully will reveal that such a state is only a temporary arrangement. Verse 27 states: "and it shall be no more *until* he come whose right it is and I will give it him".

This clearly states that the overturning of the Kingdom of Israel was but for a time, UNTIL someone comes to

whom God will give it.

The Message to Mary Unlocked

With these things in mind, we are well on the way to an understanding of the words of the Angel to Mary, one of the major themes of the Bible.

Concerning Christ this statement declares: "and the Lord God shall *give unto him* the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32).

This was the throne that existed in the times of ancient Israel; the one which was overturned (Ezek. 21:27). This throne, the throne of David, belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the person to whom God promised: "I will give it him" (Ezek. 21:27).

There are many other places in the Bible which confirm this. For example, if 2 Samuel 7:12-18 is compared with Acts 2:29-30, it will be clearly seen that Christ is the one who will reign on David's throne.

Is Christ Reigning On David's Throne Now?

Many believe that Christ is sitting upon David's throne in heaven right now! But this is clearly incorrect. There seems to be some confusion as to which throne Christ is occupying at the present time. There should be no confusion because the Scriptures are plain as to the whereabouts of Christ at the moment. He is seated at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; Romans 8:34; Eph. 1:20). God's throne in heaven is not the throne of David. God's heavenly throne was not overturned, but David's throne was. David's throne was situated in Jerusalem; whereas God's dwelling place is in heaven. That there are two thrones is evident when we read Revelation 3:21:

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne".

In addition, the Apostles taught that Christ would restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6). This cannot take place in heaven, because the Kingdom was on earth, and there it will be restored.

The Kingdom Restored

After Christ's resurrection he appeared to his disciples during a space of some forty days. The subject of conversation during that time, related to "things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). After forty days conversation with the Lord on this theme, one could hardly imagine them being ignorant of the nature of that Kingdom. And so it was, that before Christ left them, they asked him the very telling question recorded in Acts 1:6-7:

ACTS 1:6-7

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time ^arestore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, ^bIt is not for you to know the times or the seasons, ^cwhich the Father hath put in his own power.

By closely looking at their question we can ascertain that they expected Christ to restore again the kingdom to Israel. They therefore expected a restoration of the kingdom and throne which was overturned so many years before. This was their understanding of the kingdom of God. A kingdom on

earth not in heaven!

Their question was not misguided, as is evident by the reply of Christ. However they were not to know exactly at what year the restoration was to take place. A long time was to pass before Christ would return to restore the kingdom of God on a world-wide scale, but he left them with the promise of his return.

ACTS 1:10-11

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two ^amen stood by them in ^bwhite apparel;

11 Which also said, ^cYe men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, ^dshall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

These words are quite plain. Jesus Christ is to return to the earth. This is clearly promised in Acts 1:10-11.

Christ In Heaven Until

To this day Christ has not return, but hundreds of references in the Bible teach that he will. One statement is particularly interesting. That recorded in Acts 3:19-21.

ACTS 3:19-21

19 ¶ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be "blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord ;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which "before was preached unto you :

21 "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of 'restitution of all things, which / God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

This reference is interesting because it states that Christ will remain in heaven "until the times of restitution" or restoration of all things. The restitution or restoration to be effected is that spoken of "by the mouth of all his holy prophets". It would seem reasonable therefore, that if we were to look at the prophecies of the Old Testament we would be enlightened as to what restoration is being spoken of here. When we turn to the Old Testament we are

not disappointed.

The Return of the Jews To The Land of Palestine A Sign of Christ's Imminent Return

The prophecies of the Old Testament are full of the theme of the restoration of Israel. As mentioned before, the ancient kingdom of Israel was overthrown, and the Jews were banished from their homeland. They returned to restore their State only to be again scattered by the Romans in A.D. 70. The Romans besieged Jerusalem and expelled the Jewish people from Palestine. The Jews remained without a homeland until 1948 when the tiny nation of Israel once again came into existence. Today the Jews, who by the Romans were scattered from one end of the earth to the other, are gradually being gathered back to their land. This is in partial fulfilment of the restoration prophecies of the Bible. Below are a few samples of the many that can be advanced.



A carving in stone from the Arch of Titus in Rome, depicting the captivity of the Jews following the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in A.D. 70. Jews were taken into captivity "until...." (see Luke 21:24).

JEREMIAH 30:10-11

10 ¶ Therefore ^cfear thou not, O ^dmy servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed ^efrom the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and ^fbe quiet, and none shall make *him* afraid.

11 ¶ For I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: ^hthough I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, ⁱyet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee ^jin measure, and ^kwill not leave thee altogether unpunished.

EZEKIEL 37:21-22

21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, ^aI will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and ^bwill gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

22 And ^cI will make them one nation in the land upon ^dthe mountains of Israel; and ^eone king shall be king to them all:

JEREMIAH 31:10

10 ¶ Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel ^awill gather him, and keep him, ^bas a shepherd doth his flock.

On 11th December, 1917, General Allenby led the British forces into Turkish held Jerusalem. The Balfour Declaration had already been proclaimed inviting Jews to return to their ancient homeland. Many latter-day prophecies began to be fulfilled.



The restoration of Israel is not only an Old Testament theme but it is also taught clearly in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus himself spoke of the time when Jerusalem would be trodden down, but only for a limited period.

LUKE 21:24

24 And they shall fall by 'the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be 'trodden down of the Gentiles, 'until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

In 1967 the world witnessed a partial fulfilment of this scripture (Luke 21:24). For it was during the Six Day War between Israel and the Arabs, that the Jews finally gained full control of Jerusalem after nearly 2000 years of

Gentile (non Jewish) domination.

The times of restoration have already begun! In light of this, and what is stated in Acts 3:19-21 that Christ would return from heaven at the times of the restitution of all things, we must conclude that Christ is on the eve of his return.

The Bible predicts the future of the Jews and the Nation of Israel because the Bible is a Jewish book. Jesus Christ was a Jew and the hope of the Bible is a Jewish hope. The Apostle Paul said "For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain" (Acts 28:20).

The Whole World Under The Rule of Christ

Although the Bible's message is primarily a Jewish one, God's purpose will ultimately involve the whole world. God has already declared His purpose in these words.

"But as truly as I live, all the Earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Numbers 14:21).

The world has not yet witnessed the fulfilment of these words. In substance, they were repeated to the shepherds as the angels announced to them the birth of Christ:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men" (Luke 2:14).

Notice the order: Glory to God in the highest, *then* peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

Jesus Christ is the one who will establish God's glory in the earth, and who will implement peace on earth, when he returns. The "Christmas spirit" stimulated every year in no way fulfils the words above.

The Lord Jesus Christ is soon to return to the earth; of this there is no doubt. He will come to reward his faithful followers with eternal life (Rev. 22:12; 1 Cor. 15:23; 2 Tim. 4:1-8).

The Jews will be converted (Zech. 12:9-14; Romans 11:25-28).

The nations left after the battle of Armageddon will be compelled to submit to the rule of Christ (Zech. 14:16-19; Isa. 60:12).

Jerusalem will become the city of the great King (Matthew 5:35) the metropolis of a world at peace (Isaiah 2:2-4). War will be outlawed; munition making will cease; and mankind will be set free to worship God and enjoy the fruits of His glorious creation under the guidance of Christ and his followers then clothed with immortality (Rev. 5:9-10; 20:6).

Salvation on God's Terms

We commenced by considering the sadness of many people choosing to celebrate a false so-called Christian observance on December 25, whilst for the rest of the year they show no great interest in the things of God. We also saw that many who profess to being "Christian", celebrate a feast which neither Christ nor his Apostles kept or commanded others to keep; one which is steeped in paganism and which, in fact, destroys the true meaning of Christ's birth and mission. The words of the Lord Jesus Christ to the religious leaders of his day may well apply to many today!

MARK 7:6-9

6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, *'This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as *'the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.*

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye *'m* reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Acceptability with God does not depend upon how *we think* He should be approached but on how closely we *conform to His stated requirements*. No great effort is needed to be religious if we can please ourselves as to what we do. But such a type of religion is not acceptable to God. Cain and Abel were both worshippers of the same God, both made sacrifices to their God at personal expense, but only Abel's worship was acceptable because, it conformed to God's requirements. Cain imagined that any sacrifice was good enough. He learned that God is to be

worshipped on His terms, not on those of flesh. God has not changed. The Bible continually warns of false teachers with wrong doctrines and false versions of the Gospel.

Consider the following quotations which outline the importance of believing the truth and rejecting those things which are in error.

The passages of scripture cited show the difference between the attitude of the churches today and the teachings of Christ and his apostles. Today little importance is placed on doctrinal

2 TIMOTHY 2:15-19

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun ^b profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a ^c canker: of whom is Hymenæus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, ^d saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

19 Nevertheless ^e the foundation of God standeth ^f sure, having this seal, ^g The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ ^h depart from iniquity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:16

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-4

ⁱ I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, ^j who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

^k Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, ^l rebuke, ^m exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

ⁿ For the time will come when they will not endure ^o sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

^p And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and ^q shall be turned unto fables.

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

14 But ^r continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, ^s which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 ^t All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and ^u is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That ^v the man of God may be perfect, ^w thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

truth which the Christians of the first century so earnestly believed and defended.

"..Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

"prove all things hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21).

God paid the tremendous price of permitting the sacrifice of His only begotten Son for the forgiveness of sins. It is reasonable, therefore, to recognise that He demands our response to His appeal by conforming to His requirements. Many believe that by merely "believing in Jesus" salvation will be automatically granted. That is not the case. He demands a wholehearted, single-minded belief in the Gospel; an acceptance of its principles by baptism, and a daily walk in conformity therewith (see Mark 16:15-16). This means that we must reject the false teaching current today. Consider Christ's words as he explained to his disciples the responsibilities resting upon them as "his friends", as recorded in John 15:13-14.

We therefore urge upon you to pursue these matters as they will effect your eternal salvation. The evidence that Christianity today is astray from the Bible is clear when it is examined. The manner in which many of the churches celebrate Christmas illustrate this. We invite you to put this claim to the test. We offer you, entirely free of charge, an attractive book of over 450pp., bound in hard covers entitled *Christendom Astray from the Bible*. It analyses the basic doctrines of Christendom in the light of the clear, certain teaching of the Bible. This book can help you read yourself rich in the things of God, clearly revealing to you the way of Life Eternal. Send for your copy today to the address on the inside back cover of this booklet. It will be forwarded to you without obligation except that you read it. We believe that it will enhance your library, and reveal to you hidden treasures in God's wonderful revelation to man: The Bible.

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end. President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few days later but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

In 1948 the State of Israel came into existence after 2000 years of dispersion. The Bible had predicted: "Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land...." (Ezekiel 37:21-22). In 1917 the way was opened for Jews to return by the British occupation of Palestine; in May 1948, the Jewish state of Israel came into existence. Bible prophecy was dramatically vindicated.



“The Lord has risen from the

- The world celebrates the birth of Jesus each December & sings endless carols. . .
- And at Easter, people remember the resurrection of the Christ, and talk about the cross and the grave. . .
- But most fail to understand that the “man born to be king” is to return in glory and reign as Monarch over all the world.

“Peace on earth and

dead, and has appeared. . . ."

Luke 24:34

A Thousand Years Of Peace and Security

God's plan for the future is a practical one. Based upon the personal return of Christ to the earth to reign from Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:17) described as "the city of the great King" (Matthew 5:35), it provides for vast but necessary changes in the political, religious and social structure of society.

ONE KING (Jesus Christ) by divine right reigning over all nations: "The Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).

A NEW ADMINISTRATION directed by Christ's followers then made immortal: "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4) "on the earth" (Ch. 5:9-10).

ONE UNIFYING RELIGION OF TRUTH: "My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense (a symbol of prayer) shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering" (Malachi 1:11). "Every one that is left of the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts...." (Zechariah 14:16).

A UNITED WORLD: "All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him" (Psalm 72:11).

TOTAL DISARMAMENT AND ABOLITION OF WAR: "He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

A NEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM: "Merchandise shall be holiness to the Lord; it shall not be treasured nor laid up but shall be for them that dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing" (Isaiah 23:18).

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND GOODWILL: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" (Isaiah 9:7).

DOMESTIC SECURITY: "None shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4).

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND RESOURCES: "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat" (Isaiah 65:21-22).

FIRM GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL: "He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor" (Psalm 72:4).

VAST INCREASE OF THE EARTH'S PRODUCTIVITY: "The days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed" (Amos 9:13).

NO UNEMPLOYMENT: "They shall build the old wastes, and shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities" (Isaiah 61:4).

A SOUND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"; "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times" (Isaiah 2:3; 33:6).

NEW SOCIAL STANDARDS ENFORCED: "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord"; "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 11:9; 32:17).

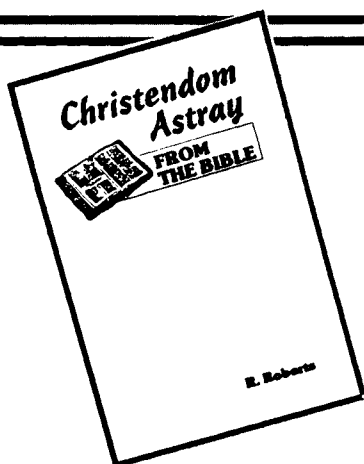
GOD'S WILL ESTABLISHED IN THE EARTH: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

THE ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL HAPPEN: "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:16). The revival of Israel in our time is the assurance that God's plan and purpose is on the eve of fulfilment.

goodwill toward men"



Israelis, including soldiers, worshipping at the Western (or Wailing) Wall, Jerusalem, at the conclusion of the Six-Day War, June 1967. For the first time in nearly 2000 years, Jewish people dominated their ancient capital. Christ predicted: "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). A token fulfillment of this prophecy occurred when Israel occupied Jerusalem in 1967.



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